



**Town of Arlington, Massachusetts**  
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## Board of Youth Services 09/16/2009

Minutes of the Board of Youth Services Meeting  
 September 16, 2009

Meeting called to order at 7:05

Present: Lynn Horgan; Cindy Sheridan Curran; Elizabeth Oppedisano; Donna Dolan; Carlene Newell, Bob Bongiorno, Kevin Flood, Maryanne Andrew, Lori Talanian, Joan Axelrod Lehigh, Leon Cantor Absent: Mary DeCoursey, Joan Robbio; Jeannette Mills

### Welcome Back: Catching up:

Bob Bongiorno announced that police are thinking about sponsoring a family Movie Night and asks if Board of Youth Services would like to collaborate. Police would provide the movie, find a location and provide funding; BYS would be available as hosts. (Subsequent discussion followed later in the evening).

Donna Dolan offers to resign or become ex-officio in order to attend to mother care/medical needs, which may necessitate absences from meetings. Unanimous vote by all present for Donna to continue as a valued, regular member with understanding of family priorities.

### Remarks from the Chair: Welcome to the new year.

Lynn proposed the group focus on three areas in upcoming year:

Understanding: Review of the Board history and of the Mission Statement

Collaboration: The theme for the year is collaboration with other agencies in town who support children

Transition: What we currently do:

AYCC –First Step, Holiday Help Programs, Food Pantry, CDBG, Interns  
 Arlington Youth Health and Safety Coalition (AYHSC)- Collaboration

Diversion Program, Guiding Good Choices (GGC)  
 Arlington Public Schools- Parent Education Forums, Alcohol Awareness

Discussion: Possibility of an open house for other agencies involved with youth in town.

Decision made to postpone at this time due to active fall/winter.

Proposed idea of developing a logo and merchandise for BYS like Coalition logo.

### New Business & Committee Updates:

Movie night: Unanimous agreement that BYS should collaborate with the Police Department as co-sponsors. Discussion re: dates and locations. Date will be determined by Bob and Cindy taking into consideration, other activities in town. BYS members will participate as hosts.

AYHSC: Meeting 9/17/09 5:30-7:00 Senior Center, Maple St.

Holiday help: Patsy Kraemer will be reducing her role; Lynn will arrange for BYS subcommittee to meet with Patsy and Liz to discuss specifics of how the BYS can assume more of a role. Specific committees:

Thanksgiving: Lori, Maryanne, Joan A.L., Donna and Kevin

Support a family: Joan, Carlene, Lori

Discussion: Patsy would like letters for requests to go out early this year; Leon suggests there should be communication with other agencies which also collect for the holidays: Thompson, St. Agnes; Boys and Girls Club.

To save time at future meetings, sub-committees should send bulleted notes of their meetings or progress to Lynn or Mary before each BYS meeting. This will save time and allow the Board meeting to be more of a working group.

Subcommittee reports and discussion:

AYCC: (Subcommittee of Joan, Lynn and Leon will continue)

Leon reports that AYCC is trying to preserve without overextending staff.

Barbara retired without replacement; other staff were cut 1 to 2 hours per week except Leon and Phyllis who are down to 27 hours.

Agency is closed on Fridays except for emergencies, Dr. Avery resigned and a new psychiatrist, Dr. Sejal Shah was hired; interns have just started; reduced to 5 interns due to limitations in supervisory time; doing a few hours of contract work at the schools

First Steps (Lynn)

Palm cards are almost ready and there will information on a table at the Library and at the Police Department

Parent Forums (Carlene)

11/9 Michael Thompson will speak at Dallin Elementary

A motion was made to adjourn at ~9:05, seconded by unanimous votes.